

WILSHIRE GARDEN M A R K E T

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THINK VERTICALLY IN THE GARDEN

Look around your garden. How many vines or climbing plants do you see at eye level? If the answer is "none" or "one", then consider incorporating a vertical element or two to your garden. Research and select beautiful plants well suited for the location, and look for equally beautiful structures that will complement both the plants and the garden.

What is so desirable about a tall structure bearing a flowering vine or climbing rose? Often, garden space at eye level is unused. A garden can be well planted at the ground level, yet lack vertical interest. Vertical structures contribute to the "bones" of the garden and as such are important elements. They come in a variety of sizes and shapes and styles from traditional to whimsical shapes such as the three life sized ivy covered dancing bears that live on a stately lawn in Houston, Texas.

Trellises that were once limited to crossbars are available in almost any design imaginable. A dimensional half round trellis in copper coated steel has a scrolled top over which flowering vines can spill, making a beautiful display on a wall or fence. Double or triptych trellises accommodate numerous plants to screen large areas.

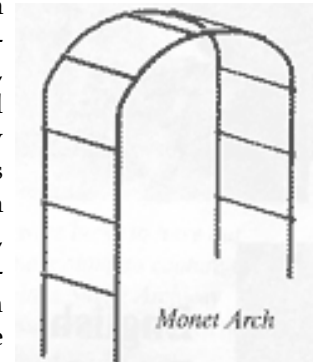
A new garden element gaining popularity is the umbrella tuteur. Its base easily slips over a young climbing rose. The canes grow up through the center, gracefully pouring blooms out and over the top of the umbrella form. As the branches pour out horizontally over the top of the umbrella, they are exposed to more sunlight, causing more abundant blooms. The addition of one or two Clematis will make a spectacular show and can furnish up to three seasons of blooms.



Rose domes are another important garden feature. The tall dome shape with finial top makes an attractive structure alone or in triplicate. They are used to support and enhance the display of climbing (not rambling) roses. Climbing roses are reported to

be the most popular of all the vining types available, due to their color and fragrance impact in the garden.

Arches have long been used as garden structures. The Monet arch, among the most well known with its gently flattened dome, has been reproduced from Monet's own garden, and brings to mind leisurely strolls through a flowering garden. The epitome of garden



bones, smothered with roses or clematis, they make an ideal entryway into the garden or passageway between garden rooms.



Gazebos and bowers are being used more frequently. There is some confusion connected with the difference between the two: a gazebo is round or four sided with four doorways; a bower is a semicircular structure with an open front. Both can accommodate a small table and chairs or bench, and conjure up romantic notions of spending leisure moments there under a leafy canopy, dining outdoors, reading a favorite book, or sipping a refreshing beverage.

Gardens are the better for having vertical structures and climbing plants as part of their composition. Roses and climbing plants benefit from having their branches fixed to sturdy supports. Gardeners are happiest when they have beautiful gardens with healthy blooming plants. Such is the case for thinking vertically in the garden.

COLOR IS HERE!

A color revolution has overtaken gardens nationwide. From the glazed terra cotta planters used on the patio and at the entry, to the plant materials, to the furniture, outdoor cushions, pillows, and table linens, color is here and it is vibrant! Homeowners are eager to use color at the entry, when entertaining on the patio and poolside, and in their flower beds. They want to add a bit of whimsy and fun to their garden retreats.

Confused about what colors to use together? It seems as though many people have a difficult time choosing plant partners. Look at a color wheel before selecting plants or fabrics. The colors opposite each other (for instance blue and orange) are complimentary and look well together; analogous colors (those near each other such as yellow and orange) also look well together.



To add a bright spot of color, nothing beats a lushly planted glazed pot. They come in nearly every hue; the most popular being cobalt blue, red, gold, purple, and pale green. Glazed containers themselves add color in the flower bed when blooms are scarce.

In the world of plant materials, lush tropical colors are the main feature: deep pinks, corals, oranges, yellows, and blues. They can be grouped together in bright monochromatic plantings or mixed well in the "riot of color" plan.



For decades, the dominant material for outdoor furniture has been plain wood or green metal. For the

first time since the '50's, outdoor furniture is now available in shades of the rainbow: petal pink, fuchsia, chartreuse, azure blue, butter yellow, and mandarin orange. Another throwback is the retro sling chair, available in tropical stripes, plaids, and prints. Cushions, pillows, and outdoor fabrics by the yard are available in highly fade resistant bright stripes, plaids, and prints.

Oilcloth, another material from the past, is back in luscious lifesaver colors. Oilcloth pillows and tablecloths come in three sizes of fruit and floral motifs.



Garden accessories have taken a colorful turn as well. Glazed ceramic toadstools in yellows, greens, blues, purples, and pinks are popular new garden accents. A toadstool added to a container is a charming touch.



Color symbolizes happiness and freedom. Color is inviting; color is fun! After you have added a few eye catching items to the entry or patio, your visitors will gasp in admiration. They will be green with envy!

LOVE THAT EMAIL

We initiated our newsletter in January 2004 and we are happy to have received so much favorable feedback. Actually, we enjoy this form of communication with our customers; we never thought that we would have so much to say.

We encourage anyone who has email but still receives this newsletter by snail mail to allow us to email the monthly newsletter link to you. The email newsletter is in vibrant COLOR, and you will receive it before the paper version is delivered by the post office.

If you are interested, send us an email at newsletter@wilshiregardenmarket.com requesting this change. You will need Acrobat Reader to view the email newsletter.

APRIL TO DO LIST

- Check daffodils for thrips.
- Prune roses if it hasn't been done.
- Add bone meal to Asiatic lilies when foliage is several inches tall.
- Plant lily of the valley pips.
- Harden off summer bedding plants to acclimatize them slowly.
- Plant water plants.
- Check trellises and climbing plant supports for damage before plants are fully developed.
- Check hanging basket supports and liners.
- Watch for insect pests: scales, aphids, whiteflies, lacebugs, caterpillars, sawflies.
- Establish or renovate Bermuda grass.
- Start to pinch back chrysanthemums for more dense plants.

CALADIUM SHORTAGE

Caladium lovers should be aware that it may be more difficult to find a plentiful supply of bulbs this year. This year's caladium bulb supply is said to be down as much as 75% due to last year's hurricanes, Charley, Frances, and Jeanne. The losses were due to the 110 m.p.h. winds ripping the leaves from the plants with each hurricane. The supply should be back to normal next year barring many more hurricanes.

SEMINAR SERIES 2005

These seminars begin at 10:30 a.m. and are one hour in length, with time for questions at the conclusion. The fee is \$10 per person; seating is somewhat limited, so call now to reserve a space. Door prizes are given at each seminar. Please join us!

The 2005 series is as follows:

Fri., Apr. 8	Linda Vater	"Use of Color in the Landscape"
Fri., May 6	Linda Vater	"Creating Curb Appeal"
Sat., June 4	Linda Vater	"Vertical Gardening"
Fri., July 8	Linda Vater	"Shade Gardening"
Sat., Aug. 27	Linda Vater	"How to keep Your Garden Looking Good"
Fri., Sep. 16	Linda Vater	"Container Gardening"
Sat., Oct. 15	Linda Vater	"Bulbs"

EXTERIOR DECORATING

This year give yourself a garden retreat, or refresh the one you have. In response to repeated requests, Wilshire Garden Market now provides an exterior decorating consultation service. By appointment and for a nominal fee, we will make a consultation visit followed by written suggestions to make your garden retreat more charming, cohesive, and useful. We also plant pots or window boxes. Call the store for more details or to set up an appointment.



Let us help you create your outdoor living room!

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